

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on March 13, 2006. Claims 1, 16, and 19 are amended. Claims 22-33 are cancelled. Claims 34 and 35 are new. Claims 1-21, 34, and 35 are pending.

The Examiner has indicated that the application is in condition for allowance with the exception of formal matters relating to claims 1, 16 and 19. The Examiner has also indicated that prosecution on the merits is closed.

Claims 1-21 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(a) for not particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. In particular, the Examiner objects to certain language in claims 1, 16, and 19, and has provided proposed amendments for overcoming these objections.

Claims 16, and 19 are amended herein as suggested by the Examiner. New claim 35 is a dependent claim that includes the subject matter cancelled from claim 16, as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 1 is amended to delete the subject matter specifying that the rotor is fluid-mounted on the stator. This subject matter is now included in new claim 34. The deletion of this subject matter and addition of a new claim directed to this subject matter was discussed with the Examiner on April 13, 2006 and April 19, 2006. Applicants' counsel pointed out to the Examiner that this subject matter was part of the preamble of original claim 1, and that the method steps that the Examiner found to be allowable did not require that the rotor be fluid-mounted on the stator. The Examiner agreed to enter such an amendment deleting this subject matter from claim 1 and adding a new dependent claim relating thereto. However, the Examiner indicated that he would have to review the prior art, and in particular U.S. patent no. 4,078,185 to Singbartl, in connection with such an amended claim 1 before indicating its allowability.

Applicants respectfully submit that Singbartl does not disclose or remotely suggest the features of Applicants' amended claim 1. In particular, Singbartl does not disclose or remotely

suggest measuring the relative axial position between the rotor and the stator at two different stop positions of the rotor, as is claimed by Applicants. In Singbartl, a spring element is used to bias the stator against a stop contact, and then the stator is set back from the spring element by an amount of elastic deformation of the spring element, which determines the size of the desired air gap (Col. 1, lines 49-62).

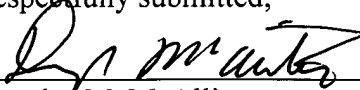
Withdrawal of the objections under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that with the present claim amendments the application is in condition for immediate allowance.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application, allow each of the pending claims and to pass this application on to an early issue. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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